

As part of the Applicants' RCE, the Applicants respectfully request entry (as a matter of right) of the amendments and arguments previously submitted in the Applicants' Amendment and Request for Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, filed 11/11/02, the (discretionary) entry of which was previously denied.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-2, 4-14 and 17-18 are pending. Claim 14 has been allowed. Claim 17, is allowable, but was objected to for being dependent upon a cancelled claim. Claims 1-2 and 4-5 stand rejected. Claims 6-13 and 18 have been cancelled for being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 19-24 have been added by amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-5, 14, 17 and 19-24 are pending as per Exhibit A.

In view of the amendments and arguments provided in Applicants document filed 11/11/02, all bases for rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for alleged anticipation have been rebutted. In view of the amendments and arguments provided in Applicants' document filed 11/11/02, all bases for rejecting claims 2, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been rebutted.

For the reasons of record, the above stated bases for rejection should not be applied against newly submitted claims 19-24.

Claims 1- 2, 4-5, 14, 17 and 19-24 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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